

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK RANGOON VIENTIANE
FROM HONG KONG 02 DEC 74:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 13014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, HK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR VANCE SURVEYS HONG KONG NARCOTICS PREVENTION

1. DURING NOVEMBER 29 STOPOVER IN HONG KONG, AMBASSADOR
SHELDON VANCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, WAS GIVEN CONFIDENT
ACCOUNT OF LOCAL CONTROL EFFORTS. AMBASSADOR CONFERRED
WITH TOP HKG OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND
VISITED PRIVATE TREATMENT CENTERS.

2. HKG OFFICIALS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR VANCE THEIR
ENTHUSIASM OVER APPARENT SUCCESS OF CURRENT LOCAL EFFORTS
WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL RESULT IN GRADUAL REDUCTION OF
HONG KONG'S ROLE AS MAJOR NARCOTICS CENTER. THEY STRESSED
COLLATERAL BENEFITS TO THE U.S. TO BE DERIVED FROM
SUCCESSFUL HKG EFFORTS. THEY DID NOT ASK FOR ANY USG
ASSISTANCE.

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3. HONG KONG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER NORMAN ROLPH INDICATED

AWARENESS THAT ANY HONG KONG SUCCESS IS, OF COURSE, LINKED TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL EFFORT. IN THIS REGARD, HE REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ONE OF NEXT IMPORTANT STEPS IS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES WITH REGIONAL FOCUS ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAI-LAOTIAN-BURMESE "GOLDEN TRIANGLE." HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO SOUND OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PRC PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

4. AMBASSADOR VANCE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO HKG AUTHORITIES' VIEWS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HIS VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACT-FINDING. CROSS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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